

Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 26, 2002
Minutes

I. Recording Attendance

Those present were: Scott Hasson, Helen Koehn, Gene Mann, Mary Thatcher, Sheila Thompson and Gunnar Wengel, and Matt Hart (portion of meeting)

II. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Feb. 26 meeting were approved by unanimous vote, without changes.

III. New Business

- a. VNA East building plans were discussed, along with parking at same location. Approval letter will be sent by Gunnar to Planning and Zoning office.
- b. Ramp at University Plaza, along with the recent additions of benches to the inside area were discussed in light of qualifying as new use for building area.
- c. Downtown Partnership building plans were discussed and it was recommended that MACPD issue letter to again remind Partnership of accessibility needs.
- d. DNEC budget cuts were discussed, with information provided by Gene Mann. It was requested that letters to legislators be sent by individual members to protest any cuts.
- e. Reports: There were no other reports.

IV. Old Business

- a. Post Office Box – Sheila reported that the postmaster has referred the request to the area supervisor. It was suggested that the box be located in an area nearby the Senior Center which has one-way access and does not conflict with parking. Sheila will contact postmaster.
- b. Assessment of Accessibility – Matt Hart provided a report on the goals and focus of the Town's accessibility assessment. Discussion focused on accessibility of parking spaces at municipal building. Question of which criteria would be used (ADA or State Building Code) was posed in regard to vans and cars with handicap designation. Committee's consensus was to use ADA guidelines, which provide more space for vans.

- c. Zoning Regulations – Gunnar reports that the CT building code is less stringent than the ADA parking regulations, and it was decided to pursue avenues to change the State Building Code to come into compliance with ADA.
- d. 300th Anniversary of Town: Helen reported that a request will be made to the planning committee to consider accessibility in planning all events.
- e. Parking Space Striping: Striping will be done at the Holiday Mall and College Square.

There was no other business presented before the Committee. Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Gene Mann